

RABIES

Human rabies is an acute viral illness of the central nervous system. The disease almost always progresses to coma or death within ten days of the first symptom. Death is usually due to respiratory paralysis. Onset is often heralded by a sense of apprehension, headache, fever, malaise, and indefinite sensory changes at the site of a preceding animal bite.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation (Human):

- ?? Detection by direct fluorescent antibody of viral antigens in a clinical specimen (preferably the brain or the nerves surrounding hair follicles in the nape of the neck),
OR
- ?? Isolation (in cell culture or in a laboratory animal) of rabies virus from saliva, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or central nervous system tissue, **OR**
- ?? Identification of a rabies-neutralizing antibody titer ≥ 5 (complete neutralization) in the serum or CSF of an unvaccinated person.

Case Classification

Confirmed: A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

Comment

Laboratory confirmation by all of the above methods is strongly recommended.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation (Animal):

- ?? Detection of rabies viral antigens by direct fluorescent antibody test performed on central nervous system tissue, **OR**
- ?? Isolation of rabies virus in cell culture or an inoculated laboratory animal

Case Classification

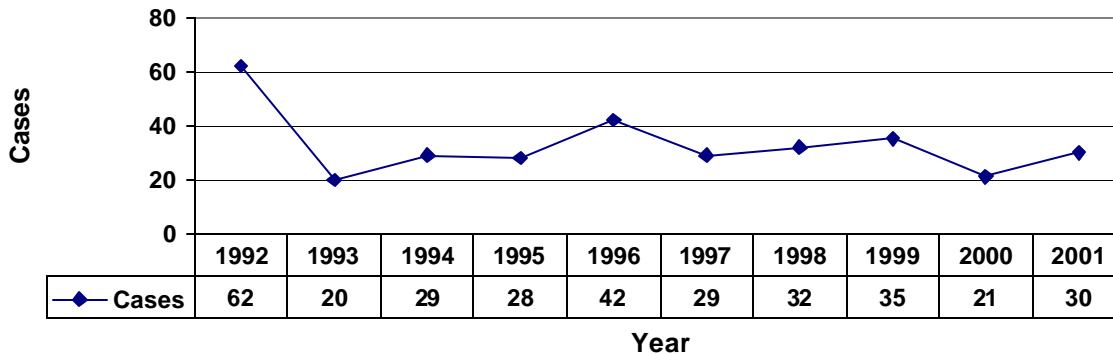
Confirmed: A case that is laboratory confirmed.

Epidemiology

Kentucky	2001
Human Cases	0
Animal Cases	30

The last human case in Kentucky was in 1996. The exposure for this South Central Kentucky woman was probably a bat bite. The investigation and report are summarized in the *MMWR*, May 9, 1997, Vol. 46/No. 18 and the *Kentucky Epidemiologic Notes and Reports*, April, 1997.

Animal Rabies Cases, Kentucky 1992-2001

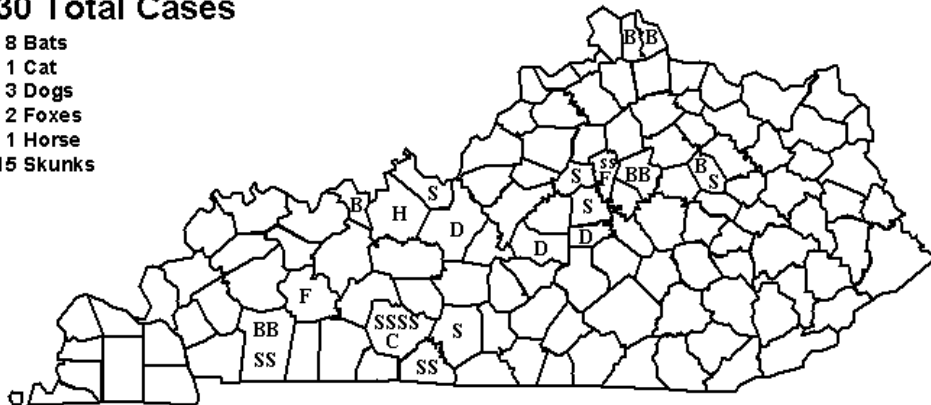


A total of 1305 animal specimens were received for rabies testing in 2001. There were 56 samples unsuitable for testing because of decomposition or traumatic damage to the brain tissue. Five of the positive cases (16.7% of positives) were in domestic animals, three of which were dogs. These dogs were owned, but had not been vaccinated for rabies. The cat was also owned but too young for vaccination at the time of exposure and the mother cat was unvaccinated. To date the raccoon strain of rabies has not been detected in Kentucky. The rabies laboratories tested 116 raccoons in 2001 and all were negative.

Rabies Cases in Kentucky - 2001

30 Total Cases

8 Bats
1 Cat
3 Dogs
2 Foxes
1 Horse
15 Skunks



Allen – 2 Skunks
Anderson – 1 Skunk
Barren – 1 Skunk
Boyle – 1 Dog
Breckinridge – 1 Horse
Campbell – 1 Bat

Christian – 2 Bats, 2 Skunks
Hancock – 1 Bat
Hardin – 1 Dog
Fayette – 2 Bats
Kenton – 1 Bat
Marion – 1 Dog

Meade – 1 Skunk
Mercer – 1 Skunk
Montgomery – 1 Bat, 1 Skunk
Muhlenburg – 1 Fox
Warren – 4 Skunks, 1 Cat (Kitten)
Woodford – 2 Skunks, 1 Fox

Ky. Dept. for Public Health
Division of Epidemiology and
Health Planning